

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Pamela MacDougal <pmacdougal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 9:08 AM
To: Rep. Chris Afendoulis (District 73); senpmacgregor@senate.mi.gov; Mary Lou Terrien; Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107)
Subject: HR 5232/ SB 720 ALLOWS PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO VETO HD

Dear Committee on Local Government,

Under the proposal, because the study committee "shall" contain a member "engaged in the business of residential or commercial construction," the construction community can block the creation of HD simply by refusing to serve on the committee. That's effectively a veto right given to private industry over a matter of public concern.

The study committee doesn't need anyone from the construction industry because it has no power to create a historic district. All it does is research so there's no reason to give the construction industry the ability to block a study from happening.

Giving private industry power over a local government decision is un-American. *It is also likely to create ugly dynamics within the local construction industry if a builder agrees to participate on the committee.* In EGR, one builder expressed to me that he was not comfortable serving on a study committee because his business might suffer from political controversy.

Pamela MacDougal

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Pamela MacDougal <pmacdougal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Rep. Chris Afendoulis (District 73); Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Mary Lou Terrien; senpmacgregor@senate.mi.gov
Subject: HR 5232/SB 720 DEVIATES FROM THE THREE-BRANCH STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Dear Committee on Local Government,

I oppose the appeal process that is described in this proposed bill because it undermines the checks and balances inherent in our government system by giving local legislative bodies judicial powers. There are no provisions of law that explain what the legislature is able to do in that review, because none of the judicial constraints or administrative hearing procedures would appear to apply. There's no body of law backing up this radical arrangement.

In other words, the proposed act would cause a deviation of Michigan government structure from the long-accepted American three branch model by asking a locally-elected legislative body to review the actions of an administrative body of the executive branch and act in a judicial capacity. Putting judicial authority in the hands of a legislative body upsets the checks and balances that our system is designed to achieve.

This creates a moral hazard. When proponents of this bill tout more "accountability," what they really are seeking is more influence over the decisions through the campaign contribution process. Right now, applications for changes have to stand on their own merits during an administrative process with judicial oversight. That's American.

VOTE NO HR 5232/ SB 720-- IT'S AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE THREE-BRANCH STRUCTURE OF MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT.

Pamela MacDougal